

## Advisory Group Meeting

**Meeting:** Advisory Group Meeting  
**Date:** January 14, 2004  
**Time:** 10:00 am – 11:30am  
**Place:** Conference Call

**Attending:** Mary Miles, Patrice Thomson, Jenny Moe, Robert Stiles, Ron Johnson, Hope Alvarez, Joyce Volmut, Denise Curtis and Cyndi Treaster

Agenda Item	Discussion	Decisions	Follow-up Required
Cyndi Treaster	Before we begin with the agenda Jenny will let every one know what is going on with the Migrant Advocate Position.	None	None
Jenny Moe	Jenny announced that Secretary Gardner sent an e-mail to his employees letting them know that there is an executive order to merge the department of employment and training with Department of Commerce and Housing. It is rumored that the move would take place in March and the new location would be in the Curtis Building.	None	None
I. Welcome Remarks – New Case Manager, Gabriela Baron			
Cyndi Treaster	The new case manager for the western region is Gabriela Baron. She is bilingual and was a farmworker as a child. She most recently who worked in a hospital and home health agency. She is outgoing, assertive and organized. She will be working out of UMMAM in Ulysses.	None	None
II. Health Promoters – Showalter Foundation			

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Cyndi Treaster	<p>For those who were unable to attend the last meeting this will bring everyone up to date. The two surveys conducted last year were the client satisfaction survey and the health status survey. One of the conclusions made by the health status survey was that the health needs of the Low German population were not being served well due to linguistic and cultural barriers. Due to this finding and some funding availability we were able to hire three Low German women as Health Promoters. They are all bilingual (Low German/English) and live in the Copeland and Kismet area. They are doing an amazing job. However our federal grant is not enough to support their positions so, we partnered with the Western District Conference of the Mennonite USA Church, Peace and Justice Committee and wrote a grant that was submitted to the Showalter foundation. We were awarded \$20,000, which will be utilized to support the health promoters. We will continue to look for ways to continue to support the health promoters.</p> <p>Unfortunately we have not been able to locate funding for the health education tapes, though we will continue to search.</p> <p>In the last meeting with health promoters we decided to have a health fair in Sublette that will occur in August and will be directed towards the Low German population.</p>	None	None
III. Medical Expansion Grant			
Cyndi Treaster	<p>Two issues that are driving us to apply for the medical expansion grant include; the need for greater voucher dollars and the expanding clients due to the Low German population. We will be applying for \$200,000 and the majority of the grant if received will be used for voucher dollars. It will also provide money for the tapes the first year and in years after that we will use the money to hire another full time case manager.</p> <p>Are there any concerns about this?</p>	None	None
Hope Alvarez	Sounds great.	None	None
Ron Johnson	No concerns. Just hope that Migrant Ed is kept in mind as we are able to assist in paying for some medical bills associated with children and have funding to assist migrant families.	None	None
Robert Stiles	Many children in the Low German population seem to have some eye problems, especially strabismus. We had family with several children that needed eye surgery in which we were working with Migrant Ed. However the family moved to Canada before the surgeries could be set up.	None	None

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Ron Johnson	Part of the Migrant Ed. Funding is set aside for non public schools and the Low German population does have some schools of their own. The issue that tends to come up is that they either don't want anything to do with Migrant Ed. Or they decline their help.	None	None
Cyndi Treaster	It would be possible for some one from Migrant Ed. to attend the monthly meeting with the Health Promoters so they can have some more insight and gather ideas on how to best reach and serve the Low German population. Since the Health Promoters are Low German and are a part of that community and are well respected also, they would be a great resource for Migrant Ed.	None	None
Ron Johnson	Migrant Ed has had to re-examine how they do recruiting and have more control over it at the state level due to the No Child Left Behind program. There is a regional office in Dodge City where there are two ladies that train the recruiters and do recruiting themselves. Ron will tell them to contact Cyndi for more on how to collaborate.	None	None
Cyndi Treaster	Asked Ron to e-mail her about the above and they would talk more on it then.	None	Ron will contact Cyndi
Cyndi Treaster	Because Joyce is writing the medical expansion grant she will be resigning from the Advisory Group.	None	None
Denise Curtis	What impact do you think the possibly new political policies regarding work permits will have on the program, if any?	None	None
Cyndi Treaster	Cyndi does not anticipate that there will be much impact on the program due to the policies if a new law is passed since those with work permits are not eligible for most safety net health services like MEDICAID or SCHIP. What may happen is there may be some people who are less fearful of pursuing services if they and legal status. The other thing that may happen is we may become eligible for some other sources of funding if more of our clients are documented.	None	None
Joyce Volmut	Joyce agreed with Cyndi.	None	None
Cyndi Treaster	Immigration advocates are not in support of what Bush has presented. He is presenting a policy to allow immigrants 3–6 yeas legal status to work and then they would have to return home (to Mexico) and that is not realistic since many have children that have been or will be born in the U.S. However it is good that the topic is being discussed and that President Bush is expanding the discussion to other areas of work besides agricultural work.	None	None

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IV. Changes in Advisory Group			
Cyndi Treaster	Since most grants we apply for ask for an advisory group comprised of 51% users and were denied a grant last year based on this issue Cyndi with the help of some of the advisory group worked on a revision of the Advisory Council Guidelines (draft). Increasing the number of users is more realistic now that our meetings are done by conference call and people are not required to leave work and travel for the meetings.	None	None
Hope Alvarez	As Cyndi reviewed the draft guidelines related to council composition Hope spoke out to say she would like to remain on council.	None	None
Cyndi Treaster	Cyndi continued to go through the guidelines (draft). The KSFHP Access Point Agency representative would rotate every two years with the other three positions chosen from five MSFW related agencies.	None	None
Denise	Are members going to renew from this point?	None	None
Cyndi Treaster	Yes.	None	None
Hope Alvarez	The problem Hope sees with this there are going to be two out of the six groups excluded at any given time since you are choosing only four people and there are six groups.	Invite guests to join the meeting once a year from the two groups that get excluded.	None
Cyndi Treaster	We will want to rotate the Access Point agency representative every two years. How should this be worded and where should it be placed in the guidelines?	None	None
Robert Stiles	Robert suggested placing it in the council composition and stating "Three members of the advisory council will be chosen from the first five groups listed. The fourth member of the advisory council will be from an Access Point agency and will serve for a term of two years at which time another Access Point agency will be given the opportunity to become a member."	None	None
Group Decision	Every one approved the wording and location of the wording that Robert suggested.	None	None
Cyndi Treaster	The following are Cyndi's recommendations for the Advisory Council, Jenny Moe, Migrant Advocate, Ron Johnson or his back up Melanie Stewart, Migrant Education, Patrice Johnson, Maternal and Child Health from the MSFW agencies and Hope Alvarez, from the Access Point	Every one was in agreement with Cyndi's recommendation	None

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	Agency. She chose MSFW agency members that have been active in the past and the Access Point Agency member that has served the least amount of time. Does everyone in the group agree?	ns.	
Mary Miles	Mary suggested that the Access Point agency be rotated between a health department and a community health center or primary care clinic.	None	None
Cyndi Treaster	Agreed that it would be a good idea and would try to do this.	None	None
Hope Alvarez	Hope stated that she was pleased that she is going to be able to continue on the Advisory Council because it has given her insight on the services that are provided. She also agreed that rotating between Access Point Provider types would be a good idea.	None	None
Cyndi Treaster	The 5 user members will be; Carmello Mendoza, Sara Friesen, Tina Guenther, Gabriela is looking for a Hispanic user in Western Kansas and Robert will find another Hispanic user in Central Kansas so that there would be geographic and cultural diversity.  Cyndi is going to make the changes to the Advisory Council Guidelines (draft) and send them to the council for approval. She is asked to get a response from every one so that she knows you have approved or disapproved the guidelines.	None	E-mail Advisory Council the revised guidelines for approval
Denise Curtis	Demise thought it would be helpful to have some background information on the program and where things are at in the program during every meeting. like having a Program Managers Report.	None	None
Cyndi Treaster	Cyndi will create a notebook for all the Council members with basic program information so every one, especially new members will have the background information on the program.	None	None
Jenny Moe	Jenny thought that was a great idea.  Jenny wondered if we had to comply with the open meeting act.	None	None
Cyndi Treaster	Cyndi is not sure and will check this out with the KDHE legal department however she does this it is a good idea to have our minutes and agendas placed on our website so they will be accessible to everyone who is interested.	None	Check with legal about open meeting act.
Jenny Moe	Great idea to have more users on the Advisory Council, because she also is finding that funding sources are looking at user representation more and more.	None	None
Robert Stiles	By having 51% of the council consist of users we would be the only voucher	None	None

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	program that does this.		
V. Issues		None	None
Cyndi Treaster	Are there any other issues?	No other issues.	None